

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated April 13, 2009, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present Application. Claims 11-20 are withdrawn as being directed to non-elected subject matter in the April 2, 2009 response to Restriction Requirement of March 2, 2009, Claims 13, 17 and 20 are amended and Claims 11, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are cancelled, leaving Claims 13, 14, 17 and 20 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment and following remarks.

Support for the claim amendments is at least found in the specification, the figures, and the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13, 14, 17 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 13, 17 and 20 are hereinabove amended in independent form to include the limitations of base Claims 11, 16 and 18, respectively, and Claims 11, 16 and 18 are accordingly cancelled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 13, 17 and 20 are now allowable. Entry of the claim amendments and allowance of Claims 13, 14 (as depending upon Claim 13), 17 and 20 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 11, 12, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Watkins, U.S. Patent No. 6,712,269 in view of Masayoshi, Japanese Patent Publication No. 1989-318989.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Watkins in view of Masayoshi, Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-41357.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Watkins in view of Applicant's admitted prior art at paragraphs 0003-0014 of the specification.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the reasons set forth below. Claims 12, 15 and 19 are hereinabove cancelled without prejudice and rejections are rendered moot for these claims.

As discussed above, Claims 13, 17 and 20 are hereinabove amended in independent form to include the limitations of base Claims 11, 16 and 18, respectively, and are now allowable as including allowable subject matter. Entry of the claim amendments, reconsideration, withdrawal of the relevant §103 rejections and allowance of Claims 13, 17 and 20 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

Applicants hereby petition for any necessary extension of time required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) or 1.136(b) which may be required for entry and consideration of the present Reply.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 30, 2009